



The Gargunnock Bugle



Issue 70 June 2022

Summer Wildlife Around Gargunnock

June is a wonderful time to go out walking around the village.

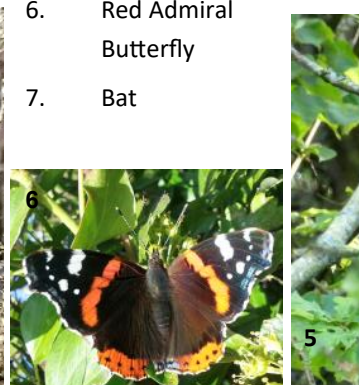
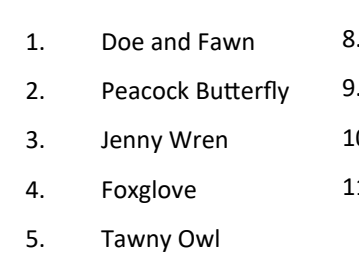
Baby birds in nearly every tree, summer visitors will be returning back, and you may even see the spotted flycatcher.

Lots of colourful wildflowers; Foxgloves, daisies, and buttercups. Butterflies will be easy to spot in flight especially the Peacock, Red Admiral, and Commas.

Pregnant female bats form roosts and gather together to give birth. They will have one pup each and remain with them until 1 month old. At this age the young bat will be able to forage and look after themselves. Regularly seen in flight at dusk and after dark.

If out walking early you may even spot a roe deer fawn or two.

Words and Photos courtesy of Anne-Marie Stewart



1. Doe and Fawn
2. Peacock Butterfly
3. Jenny Wren
4. Foxglove
5. Tawny Owl
6. Red Admiral Butterfly
7. Bat
8. Comma Butterfly
9. Hare
10. Flycatcher
11. Bluetits

Editorial

Welcome to June's Bugle, I hope you enjoy catching-up with what has been happening in the community and reading updates on things like the village shop (pg. 4) and the path work (pg. 7).

We are still looking for a permanent editor to take on the production of the Bugle. We aim to publish four copies a year and support is on-hand from the Trustees to help with things like drumming-up advertisers or working with the printers. There is a modest fee payable to the Editor, if

desired. If you're interested, or would like to find out more, please contact Jon Park at gargunnockbugle@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Contributions and adverts are always welcome and can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com, as can any feedback you may have (good or bad!). The deadline for the next issue is 21st August 2022.

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Dates for the Diary

**Earlsburn Windfarm Extension
Exhibition & Consultation
Wednesday 15th June @ 11am to 3pm
At the Community Centre**

**Community Council Meetings:
8th August & 3rd October @ 19:30
At the Community Centre and via Zoom**

**Gargunnock Village Flower Show
Friday 28th August
At the Community Centre**

**Windfarm Fund Panel Deadline
19th September**

www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications

GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW QUIZ NIGHT



25th March saw the resumption of the Annual Flower Show Quiz, following 2 years cancellation due to the covid outbreak. The uncertainty of the situation caused the committee to wonder how many people would actually turn up but in the end their fears were groundless as around 70 turned up to enjoy and participate in the proceedings. In addition to local participants, there were visiting teams from Cambusbarron and Ruskie who were made most welcome.

The Quizmaster for many years, Willie Campbell, had intimated his retirement from the position and Matt Stevenson, who had been persuaded to do the needful was introduced to the company before taking up his duties under the watchful eye of "The Headmaster". A wide variety of questions of varying degrees of difficulty were posed, at the end of which the winning team of David and Izzie King, Edmund Mansion and Mike Kay emerged as the most intelligent team of the evening. The less said about the wooden spoon the better!!

While the final results were being counted and checked, a well-stocked raffle was carried out and a special thanks is due to everyone who generously donated prizes and participated in the event.

The wonderful sum of £450 was raised and, as this is the only fund raising event which the Flower Show has in the

year, will go a long way to keeping the annual Flower Show operating.

Thanks are due to Maitland for compiling the questions, Anne for checking the answers and, above all to Matt, who effortlessly filled the shoes of Quizmaster, and performed so well that he may well have found himself to be a regular performer in future.



Gargunnock Walking Group - May 2022

The Gargunnock Walking Group has recently enjoyed some further excellent walks including the circuit at Rumbling Bridge and Crook of Devon, the walk round North Third Reservoir with woodpecker and red squirrel playing in the trees, a tour of Bannockburn led by Geoff, and last but by no means least a walk in Pitcairn Den at Dunning with a superb display of Bluebells. As usual we had excellent lunches after the walks, and after the last walk we had an excellent lunch in the award winning and acclaimed Kirkstyle Inn at Dunning.

The next walk is on Thursday 26th May, but this will have taken place by the time the Bugle is distributed. This will be a new walk for us taking in the



Amazing Bluebells in Pitcairn Den

foreshore along the Forth between Bo'ness and historic Blackness Castle, with lunch in a recommended pub in Blackness village.

It may be difficult to keep up this high standard of walks, but further walks are planned as follows:

- Tuesday 7th June – Devilla Forest, led by Geoff.
- Thursday 23 June – Another seaside walk from Cambus between Tullibody and Alloa.
- Tuesday 12th July – to be decided.
- Thursday 28th July – to be decided.

Possibilities for walks include Dollar Glen, Braco Castle, and return visits to the Dukes Trail, Glen Lednock and Cashell Forest Park.

As usual these walks will depend up on the weather on the day. We want to maintain the tradition of walking on fine clear days when we expect to have stunning views of the surrounding countryside. And we are always on the look-out for new and interesting walks within easy access of Gargunnock

We normally gather at 9:30a.m. in the pub car park prior to starting our walk, and we always try to minimise the number of cars by sharing.

If you are interested in participating in our walks, call me on 01786 860608 or drop me an email to edmond.mansion@btinternet.com and I will put you on the circulation list for meets and send a copy of the Guidance Notes.



Happy Walkers in Pitcairn Den at Dunning

Please note that one of the few rules that we have is no dogs. The primary reason for this is that we occasionally walk through areas where livestock graze and I would not wish to be associated with anyone's dog however well-disciplined whilst in the vicinity of cattle. We also expect participants to be responsible for their own wellbeing and capable of going the distance of the walk.

Edmond Mansion, May 2022



*Who said this was an easy walk!
Rough going in Garshellach Forest*



A Thank You from Arnprior Nursery

The children from Arnprior Nursery would like to thank the Gargunnock Community Trust and Falck Renewables Kingsburn Community Fund for giving us the opportunity to purchase items for our garden.

We have been able to purchase sweeping brushes, gardening set, children's gardening gloves, watering cans, giant spoons and a mud kitchen. The items bought with the grant have made a big difference in the garden. It has given the children the opportunity to develop their fine and gross motor skill. The giant spoons have been very popular with mixing potions. The sweeping brushes have been used not only to clean the garden but also with water play. At the moment we are planting carrots, beans and lettuce with the gardening set and the watering cans have been used to help water the plants.

All items have greatly enhanced our opportunity to improve the children's learning experience.



Dear Editor

On behalf of Rotary in Callander, I'd like to thank the good people of Gargunnock for their contributions to the Bottle and Bric-a-Brac Stalls held on Easter Saturday in Ancaster Square.



We achieved the superb total of £981. This has been added to other charity fund-raising by Rotary in Callander, with the result that we have been able to donate £2000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal for Ukraine.

With many thanks

Michael Kay

Senior Vice President, Rotary in Callander



UPDATE ON THE GARGUNNOCK VILLAGE SHOP

On the 12th May the Gargunnoch Community Council (GCC) held an open meeting for the village residents to hear Business Consultant Dave Hollings outline the results of his work in relation to the potential purchase of the Village Shop. Many thanks to the 50+ people that came along and also to the Gargunnoch Community Trust (GCT) and the Windfarm Fund for supporting this initial work.



Dave's presentation included a summary of some existing data on Community Shops based upon nearly 400 examples across the UK (37 in Scotland). It also utilised data from a previous shop owner before the current owner took over the shop. A couple of take away points from the presented data: over 90% of community shops survive, however running one is no 'gold mine'. Financials from a previous Gargunnoch shop owner show turnover in excess of £300,000 but slim profit margins – just over £30k per year.

There was good engagement with the attendees with a variety of questions covering a range of topics including the suitability of the financial data considering it was pre pandemic, contact with the existing owners, cost of

purchase and alternative locations for the shop (Drop In Centre at Community Centre or Pub).

The location of the shop and associated business case for these alternatives were discussed at a high level with concerns raised about the community purchasing another building in addition to the Community Centre and Drop In Centre - both of which have their own challenges in terms of financial sustainability.

Based on this, it was suggested that the Drop In Centre could be a safer option financially given the community already own it. Plus, the footprint of the Drop In Centre could lend itself to extended services of a shop to include seating etc. This was countered by the fact the Drop In Centre sits on the outskirts of the village and is not as central as the existing shop. Potentially a deterrent for residents with mobility issues which in turn could have an impact on footfall. It would also require a change of use request to Stirling Council – however, this is not foreseen to be an issue.

All great points for further discussion and all options need to be thoroughly reviewed in terms of preferred location, financials and liabilities.

The existing shop is currently having repair work being done, and it is assumed the owners will not set up a shop again themselves. Recent attempts to contact the current owners have not been successful so this cannot be confirmed until it is put on the market for sale.

Both the Drop In Centre and the current shop location are being reviewed as potential locations and the GCC is exploring a variety of funding sources for potential purchase of the existing shop or retrofitting of the Drop In Centre. To facilitate this, we will establish a Community Benefit Society (CBS) that will be an independent entity separate from the Trust and Council that would be responsible for everything to do with the shop – regardless of its location. So the Trust would bear no risk or liability

Once established, the residents of Gargunnoch will have the opportunity to buy shares in the CBS if they wish.

The full report from the business consultant is available on request to any GCC councillor, the Gargunnoch website, or via Facebook and we will keep you posted with progress via the Notice Board, Facebook and of course the Bugle! If you have suggestions or questions, please speak to any GCC Member or contact us via email at:

gargunnochcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Gargunnoch Community Council – May 2022

SCRAP-ARAMA—Your questions answered...

A flyer was distributed to every home in the Village and, since then, there has been a lot of positive feedback. However, a number of questions arose so hopefully this will clarify the points raised.

Q - Does my display HAVE to be out for 1st June?

A - No. The event will run from 1st June to 28th August (the date of the Flower Show)

Q - So I can participate any time between these dates?

A - Yes. In fact you can change your display as many times as you wish over the period.

Q - When will the displays be judged?

A - It will probably be a week before the Flower Show - 28th August. - and it will be a neutral judge||

Q - Can I use anything at all to decorate?

A - Yes. Start with the piece of scrap of any material, decorate it as you wish, but make sure that you include flowers, plants or vegetables.

Q - I am on Main Street and can't display at my front door?

A - You can display anywhere else in the Village, as long as it is in a safe position. Alistair Jackson has said that he would be happy for anyone to use the grassy area behind the notice board, and there is also plenty room at the Square behind the fountain.

If you have any other queries, please contact Maitland 07763098247, Anne 07977441108 or Sandra 07488303365

The Flower Show Committee is looking forward to seeing a wide variety of displays throughout the Village.



Office Space Available for Rent

There is office space at the Community Centre available to rent. If you are interested please contact us at gargunnochCC@gmail.com

Flower Show Thank You

It was some weeks ago, when Maitland, President of Gargunnock Flower Show and Anne, Secretary made a surprise visit to the home of Robert and Liz Petrie. They had the pleasure of presenting the Petries with a hamper, as a token of thanks for their long relationship with the Flower Show. They were founder members of the re-constituted Show for well over 30 years and also question compilers for the Annual fund raising Quiz Night. They have decided to stand down and enjoy a well earned rest. Maitland thanked them for their long service and hoped that they would be able to come to future Quiz Nights as special guests.



GETTING READY FOR THE FLOWER SHOW?

What to do now...

- Plant out your dahlias. Choose a site that gets plenty of sun and is protected from the wind. Flowering should start mid-Summer.
- Deadhead your Spring Bulbs. Cut the flower stems off at the base. When the leaves die back in a few weeks the strength will get stored in the bulb for next year.
- Tie in your young sweet pea shoots close to the supports.
- Sow hardy annuals such as nasturtiums direct into the soil.
- Plant out bedding plants and gladioli corms in sunny locations
- Earth up your early potatoes, and keep watering them. There is still time to plant maincrop tubers.
- If you have sown turnips, they should be ready to be thinned out.
- And.....as at any time, get rid of weeds!!

Every home in the Village received a Flower Show Schedule, so check the list of entries so that you can prepare for as many as you can. Please help to make this year's Show a resounding success, following the cancellation the last 2 years.

Remember the date— **SUNDAY 28th AUGUST 2022!!**



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The WELCOME TEAM OF Gargunnock Kirk

So, who are we? We were formed by Fiona and Rev Andy Campbell in 2017. We are 5 people, either connected with the village or the Kirk, and our aims are to welcome and engage with people in our community while helping to take care of the Kirk grounds and heritage.

We've had a recent change in membership as Rev Lynne Mack has left the group saying that it's time for her to step back as she's not in the community, and now has very little contact with the church so she feels that the time is right for her to leave. We appreciate her contribution to the group and the support she has given us. Robin Patel also left the group due to other commitments. We are sad to see him go and thank him for his input. We have gained Mark Dickson and the others are Douglas Barr, Hannah Vallance, Emma King and myself, Helen Rowell.

Plans to install wooden planters at the gate of the Kirk are well under way and we'll be planting them up with low maintenance but pretty plants.

We are still hoping to be able to install a notice board near the bench, dedicated to the Welcome Team work. Hopefully that will happen this year!

The old Kirkyard tours began again at the beginning of May and are

continuing throughout the summer, every Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm. Emma will lead the Wednesday ones and Douglas and Helen will take it in turn for the Saturday ones. Each tour can take up to 8 people, last about 45 minutes and have to be booked in advance. The booking email is gkwelcometeam@gmail.com or telephone 860630.

We have a date for our next Kirk Open Day, which will be held on Saturday 24th September from 10am to 4pm. We haven't decided on the content yet but there will be Kirkyard tours and the always popular refreshments with home baking. We are registering with Doors Open Days Stirling weekend

We are planning a Kirkyard tidy up before then, which will involve weeding and scraping moss and general sweeping to make the Kirkyard more presentable. We don't have a date for this yet but will be looking for volunteers.

Our newest member, Mark, had a great idea and we hope to pursue the possibility of having some sort of non-perishable food collection, linked to Harvest Festival and the Open Day, to be donated to Stirling food banks. He would like Gargunnock Kirk to be more child orientated, so we will be looking into this aspect.

For any more information about the Welcome Team and its work, please call Helen on 860630.

Helen Rowell, May 2022

FORTH VALLEY 11 to 19 June 2022

art beat in GARGUNNOCK

CCAD
f
ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO
DESIGNERS
ARTCYCLE



Patricia Griffin Michael Kay Ros Macdonald Patricia Griffin Michael Kay Ros Macdonald

at BRIDGEND, Main Street

Visit website for full details of programme and events
www.forthvalleyartbeat.com

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The Gargunnock Flower Show introduces

SCRAP-ARAMA



We've had POT-ARAMA and now it's **SCRAP-ARAMA!**

Take an item you are going to throw out/recycle (suitcase, bike, ladder, bucket etc) and decorate it with anything you have handy including a few flowers, foliage or plants.

Put your item outside your house or somewhere safe for everyone to see.

Hopefully everyone will take part to brighten up our village!

There will be a **PRIZE** for the best exhibit.

Items should be on show from the 1st June.

BITE & BLETHER

Thank you to everyone who supported us at Bite and Bletther on Wednesday 1st June. Whether you helped us by baking or with setting up, taking orders, serving or clearing up and putting the tables and chairs away afterwards, or by coming along and buying lunch, we are very grateful to you.

We will not be here during July and August but hope to be back on Wednesday 7th September and thereafter on a regular basis on the first Wednesday of the month.

Jill and Barbara



Playgroup in Gargunnoch
Term-time Monday and Thursday
9:30 AM to 12.00PM
Community Centre Gargunnoch
For all kids from 2 years old
£10 per session/ £5 for sibling
We have places available,
for more details email:
gargunnochplaygroup@gmail.com

Toddlers
Every Wednesday
10.00 AM to 11.30AM
Community Centre Gargunnoch
From 0 - 5 Years
£2 per session/£0,50 for sibling
for more details email:
markardickson@gmail.com



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For further information, please email Gay at

glb44@btinternet.com

Paths Group Update.

The most visible proof of the Path groups activities over the past months has been the upgrading and re routing of Charlie's Loan, a core path linking Main Street to Leckie Road. A new 51 metre section has been added avoiding the old steps which had significantly deteriorated and constituted a potential safety hazard. A significant achievement and thanks go to Pete Rowell for his enthusiastic leadership of the volunteer workforce. To Stirling Council for the provision of most of the materials and to the Windfarm Panel for the funding of ancillary materials. But most of all to the volunteers of all ages, sizes and physical abilities who made it all possible. In total there were 13 work parties held amounting to 140 hours of effort, an achievement to be proud of!

A notable milestone has been achieved by the group spearheading the Gargunnoch to Stirling pathway. Following on from the completion of the concept design phase a submission has been made to Sustrans for funding to allow for Detailed and Technical design work to enable this challenging project to continue.

Following a series of meetings with Senior Stirling Council Officers we are delighted to report their full support in taking this pathway project forward.

It should also be noted that the village survey on cycling showed strong support not only for the Gargunnoch to Stirling Pathway but also for this project to be continued westward on the ancient route of The King's Highway

The Gargunnoch Community Trust is in the final stages of completing a Consultative Paths Strategy which will be posted on the Trust's website and the noticeboard on which feedback is being sought.

David King, May 2022



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Mid Scotland and Fife Region



Please contact me below with any issues you feel I may be able to help with

-  Dean.lockhart.msp@parliament.scot
-  0131 348 5993
-  www.deanlockhart.com
-  @DeanLockhartMSP
-  The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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Gargunnock curling club

established 1790

Bobby's Treble

The club enjoyed a full season of curling following the disruption of covid last year.

The big winner this year was Bobby 'Golden Touch' McAllister, who was part of the winning team in all three of Gargunnock's internal competitions held on Sunday evenings. The full list of the winning teams was as follows:

The Bugle: Matt Stevenson
Bobby McAllister
Jackie Stevenson
Kirsten McAllister

Doubles: Bobby McAllister
Pauline Evans

The Drum: Anna Tomczynska
Bobby McAllister
Jackie Stevenson
Neil McRae

Social Events

In January members and guests got together at the Gargunnock Inn for the second annual quiz night hosted by Robert Hay. A superb night was had by all raising over £400 for club funds.

Two successful 'Come and Try' events were held through the season where locals got to have a go under the expert instruction of Michael Goodfellow and Hammy McMillan.

Here members of Gargunnock are pictured with 2022 Olympic Silver Medallist Hammy:

The season ended in early April with the club Dinner, AGM,



and Prizegiving, again at the Gargunnock Inn. Chair Gavin Fleming gave a round-up of the season's events and presented the prizes. Office bearers were all reinstated: Gavin Fleming (Chair), Pauline Evans (Club Secretary), Graham Dingley (Treasurer), Donna Fleming (Match Secretary), Jackie Stevenson and Martin Johnstone.

Forth & Endrick

Gargunnock also had a very successful year competing in the Forth & Endrick Province competitions which take place on Thursday evenings throughout the season.

Despite trying to throw away the title with a loss to Balfron in the final fixture, Gargunnock managed to come out on top to win the Forest Hills League. This is the first silverware for the club since it was re-established in 2018.

Forest Hills Winners: Gavin Fleming
Martin Johnstone
Matt Stevenson
Bobby McAllister

Final League positions.

Club	Games Played	Ends	Shots For	Shots Against	Points
Gargunnock	7	29	55	36	9
WSL	7	25	46	40	8
Strathendrick	7	25	41	36	8
Balfron	7	24	49	47	8
Castle	7	26	39	63	8
Loch Ard	7	23	53	39	7
Buchlyvie	7	24	36	39	6
Port	7	23	31	50	2

Gargunnock also competed in the F&E Knock-Out event. Having lost the first game on a 'draw the shot' decider to Strathendrick we were knocked down to the Low Road. From there Gargunnock went undefeated with wins over Kippen, Buchlyvie and Balfron to lift the Low Road Cup.

Low Road Winners: Gavin Fleming
Matt Stevenson
Robert Hay
Ian Watt



Given this recent success, next season we plan to enter more local competitions to give more players the chance to compete against other clubs. This will include league competitions at The Peak on Monday afternoons and on Tuesday evenings.

For more information or to join us please contact Pauline gargunnockcurlingclub@gmail.com.

You can also follow us on Facebook.

Good Curling!

Gavin Fleming, May 2022

Charles "Pansy" Kay of Mill Farm

A couple of years back the church had a successful open day which included a video of church history and static displays plus conducted tours of the graveyard. One of the characters described in the tours was that of Charles Kay of the Mill Farm, now known as Millmuir. Apart from farming his hobby was growing pansies and violas and indeed it was that which earned him his unusual nickname.

He appears in a corner of the photo of the assembled dignitaries and villagers at the inauguration of our first piped water supply in 1910. Apart from a eulogy in the Church Supplement on his death in 1913 that was all I knew of him.

However, about a fortnight after the open-day, out of the blue, Nimmo Clark, Charlie's great, great grandson no less, emailed me, looking for information about the Kays. That happy coincidence and the fact that 2019 was the 225th anniversary of the Gargunnoch Farmer's Club came together to greatly expand my knowledge of the Kays of Gargunnoch.

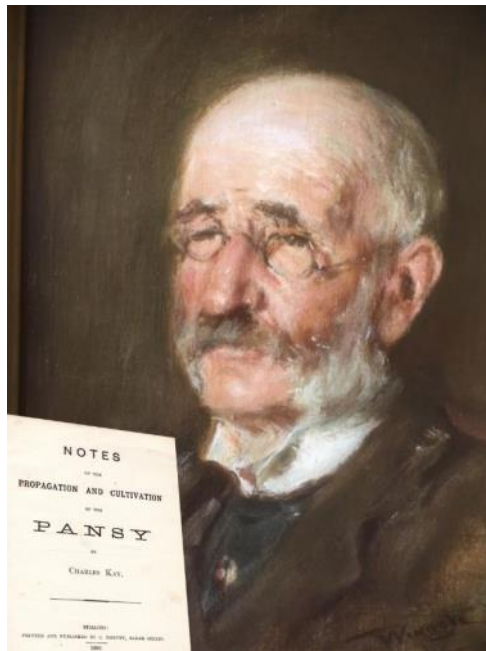


Nimmo Clark lives in Northallerton, Yorkshire. His aunt Agnes, Charlie's granddaughter, is now 95 years young and enjoying life in a care-home now although in 2019 she was still living on her own. Through our contact Nimmo and I exchanged lots of information. Even better, later that summer he came to visit Gargunnoch and brought Agnes with him. She turned out to be full of energy and bright as a button with a memory undimmed by age. By coincidence it turned out that Catriona McNee here in

Viewfield was a childhood friend so a visit was quickly arranged, an unexpected highlight for both ladies. Nimmo told me later that he just sat quietly in the background, sipping his sherry, while the two ladies exchanged many past memories.

The Kay family of farmers farmed here from about the middle of the 19th to well into the 20th century in the Hillhead, Mains and the Mill Farms before leaving the area in the late 1920s. The minutes books of the local Farmers Club, founded in the 1790s and on display at their 225th anniversary show, revealed their name appearing both as office bearers of the club and regular prizewinners. There is also a gravestone in our churchyard inscribed, "In Memory of John Kay, Farmer & Inn Keeper" and at one point the club held their meetings in "Mrs Kay's Inn." I wonder which one that was as at one time or another there were 4 Inns here.

Charlie tenanted the Mill Farm and like his forebears



Charlie published a book on his hobby and his portrait was painted by visiting eminent artist, Sir James Lawton Wingate PRSA

excelled in his profession as also he did in his hobby of growing and breeding pansies and violas, so much so that his name (and nickname) became known far and wide throughout Britain. He even published a little red book in 1890 entitled "Notes on the Propagation & Cultivation of the Pansy" in which he set out his experiences and recommendations.

On Enemies of the Pansy he wrote...

"A sharp lookout should be kept on the snails for at least two weeks before a show...A visit should be made to the pansy beds every other night with a lantern, just before going to bed to intercept any that are making for the blooms."

He was well read too and a great protagonist of Shakespeare. In those days prominent artists visited our village and one of them, Sir James Lawton Wingate, even painted his portrait.

After his death in 1913 the Scottish Gardener and Northern Forester wrote...

"As a farmer and stock breeder he excelled...His services as a judge were much in request ... in various parts of the country. For more than a quarter of a century he had been the leading raiser of Pansies and Violas in Britain ... No one did so much to popularise the Pansy and Viola..."

...While he could denounce anything that savoured of a shady nature in no measured terms he was withal a man of a genial, hospitable nature, generous to a degree, always willing to help by advice or otherwise; he enjoyed the respect and esteem of all who knew him."

So there we are. Through a series of happy coincidences the story of the eminent Kay farming family in Gargunnoch, and in particular that of Charles "Pansy" Kay, has been retold so that more than 100 years after his demise he lives on in our memories for at least a wee while longer.

John McLaren, May 2022



Mr & Mrs Kay at Mill Farm c1900



SITE LAYOUT AS OF MAY/JUNE 2022



This image is used for illustrative purposes only – it does not show the actual turbines on the site existing or proposed.

Public exhibition and consultation: Wed 15 June 2022

Naturalis Energy Development Ltd, a joint venture partnership between Falck Renewables and Reg Power Management Ltd, are experienced renewable energy developers and have been undertaking environmental studies for a windfarm located approximately 4km south of the village of Gargunnock, Stirling.

The project would form an extension to the existing Earlsburn Wind Farm. The proposals are at an early stage but we believe the site has the capacity to accommodate up to 15 turbines with tip heights of up to 180m. If developed, this renewable energy project would make a meaningful contribution toward meeting the Scottish net zero carbon target by 2045, by providing clean, green energy.

For more information visit
www.earlsburnextension.co.uk

We are holding two drop-in sessions to tell you about the project and we are keen to hear your views and help shape the proposal. The drop-in sessions will take place on **Wednesday 15 June 2022** in:

11am to 3pm – Gargunnock Community Centre, Leckie Road, Gargunnock, Stirling, FK8 3BJ

4pm to 8pm – Cambusbarron Bowling Club, St Ninians Road, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9NU

Please do not attend if you have any symptoms of Covid-19.

Don't worry if you are unable to attend the above sessions. You can still provide feedback or ask questions about the proposals via the project website at www.earlsburnextension.co.uk.

Our assessments will continue over the summer and we will be carrying out further drop-in sessions later in the year where we will share the results of these studies and proposals with you, ahead of the formal submission of a planning application.

Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham is based at Balfour Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at:

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland

Theft

There have been no thefts reported in the Gargunnock area, however thefts have occurred in the Blane field area so please be vigilant and look after your property.

What basic steps can I take to protect my home?

Having your home broken into is not common. There are however many ways that you can help secure your home. They don't all cost money – some are common sense and good housekeeping. Here are a few basic steps that can keep your home safe:

- Keep your home locked at all times
- Many thieves do not need to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else they can be easily found
- Don't leave valuables where they can be seen through a window
- If you have a wall calendar, avoid having it shown near a window from where appointments can be seen - people may see when there will be no one in.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house

If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.

Fuel theft advice

There has been a rise in domestic and commercial fuel tanks. It's important to put measures in place to protect your fuel tank and make it extremely difficult for thieves to target your fuel.

Please find below some tips to avoid becoming a victim of such a crime:

- Locate your tank in a safe location remembering that many thieves use Google Maps to find satellite images of fuel tanks.
- Consider locating your tank behind a garage or shed and away from roads. Positioning it close to your business or home will ensure it's in clear view.
- Locate inside a security gate or cage with a good quality, robust fence or cage to make life difficult for thieves.
- Install an alarm Consider fitting alarms to external gates surrounding your fuel tank or to the inside of a shed or outbuilding that is housing the tank.
- Fit a fuel theft lock, thieves often come armed with tools so it's worth investing in quality locks, locking fuel caps and anti-siphoning

deterrents to slow down the criminals and reduce the likelihood of success. Locks with a CEN or BSEN 12320 Grade 6 classification indicate maximum security (Grade 1 is the least secure)

- Install outdoor security lighting positioning your tank in the bright light is an effective solution worth considering. With the majority of thieves striking at night, installing automatic security lighting will help stop criminals from targeting your fuel tank.
- Put up signage to highlight the security measures you've installed can help deter those up to no good. These could include: Private property, keep out, Warning CCTV in operation, All vehicles are left with minimum fuel, Security patrols in operation, All vehicles fitted with security devices etc

Poaching

Hare coursing is illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Anyone involved in this activity will usually use lurchers, greyhounds, and whippet dogs to chase the hares, but the motive is rarely to take the hare but to treat it as a sport.

It is predominantly a seasonal crime occurring during the Spring as crops emerge into fields and during late Summer and early Autumn when the crops have been harvested. However, it can occur at any time of the year.

There have been incidents of hare coursing in the Gargunnock area in the past.

If you suspect a wildlife crime is/has taken place

Do:

- Report any suspicious activity as soon as possible to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 if it is an emergency, and ask to speak to a Wildlife Crime Officer if one is available
- Take note of the date, time, and weather conditions
- If possible, identify a map reference using the My Three Words app, or ideally a GPS reading of both the incident scene and location from where you witnessed the incident
- Note a description of person/s involved including gender, age, height, clothing, etc
- Write down any vehicle registration numbers, make, model, and colour that may be involved
- Identify other witnesses and obtain their name and contact details
- If possible, video or photograph the scene, or make a rough sketch
- Cover up any suspected poisoned baits or victims to prevent any animal or person from coming into contact with them.
- Do report. Even if you are not sure - report the incident. The evidence of wildlife crime is not always obvious.

Do Not:

- Do not disturb the scene by moving items or walking about unnecessarily
- Do not touch dead animals or birds, especially if you suspect that poison may have been used
- Do not interfere with legal countryside practices such as the legal use of traps and snares, hides, high seats, and shooting butts.

Never:

- Never approach suspects or intervene if you suspect someone is committing a wildlife crime – you may put yourself in danger.

Organic food deliveries in Gargunnock

We can have organic food delivered to homes locally. There is a wide variety of the best vegetables, fruit, dairy, meat and dry foods. Frozen food and quality imported products are also available to order.

For more information please contact c.blacklock@yahoo.com

Call out to local musicians

We have recently moved to Gargunnock We have music rehearsal and recording facilities. We are looking to start tuition, workshops and events in the near future. If anybody is interested please get in touch aztec.sound@yahoo.com



News From Gargunock Primary School

A year has flown by so quickly and as always at the end of a school year there can be changes in staffing. We said welcome back to Miss Barrowman who returned from her maternity leave at the start of term 4. She is currently working in P6/7 alongside Miss Stewart. Miss Wilson and Miss Stewart were both only with us for the year and we have to say a very sad goodbye to them at the end of term. We are also saying a very fond farewell to Mrs More is leaving us at the end of term. We are currently in the process of recruiting for a new admin.

We say a big farewell and good luck to our 13 P7s who are moving on to either Balforn High School or Stirling High. This group of young people have excelled themselves as learners through a difficult time in education.

Everyone who has had the privilege of teaching them has noted their determination, engagement and sense of fun, and I am proud of each and every one of them.

We are also really looking forward to 12 new P1s starting in August and their buddies can't wait to meet them during the upcoming transition days.

Health and Wellbeing Fund

We were delighted that our Parent Council managed to secure a £2000 grant to promote the Health and Wellbeing of all our pupils this term. As a result we have organised Samba drumming, yoga and outdoor play sessions throughout May and June. In addition to this we



have planned a whole day of activity with the support of Active Stirling. Pupils will learn about map, campfire and tent building skills and go on a whole school wellbeing walk around the local area. It's lovely to be able to invite visitors back to school and to explore the learning opportunities that are available to us through field trips. We are trying to make the most of these opportunities now that our Covid restrictions are beginning to lift.

P6/7

P7 had such a great time at Dalguise at the end of last term where they had a whole week of outdoor activity and teambuilding. Thanks to Emma Harvey from The Youth Participation Team who helped to staff the trip and to Miss Stewart who came up mid week to allow Mrs Orr back to school. These types of experiences last a lifetime and many happy memories were made.

More recently P6/7 were involved in an Estate's Day at Argaty where they were given an insight into sustainable living, countryside jobs and management. They also welcomed Angela into their classroom to support their current topic on democracy. Angela works for the Scottish Parliament as an Education Officer and added a layer of understanding for the children that could never be achieved through internet research.



P3/4/5

P3/4/5 enjoyed a great day at Dynamic Earth where they attended workshops on dinosaurs and our amazing planet earth. They visited climate rooms to support their understanding of our diverse world and identified dinosaurs by their fossils. This term they are studying the Wars of Independence and visited Bannockburn Heritage Centre to support this. They had a great day completing a weapons workshop, trying on costumes and seeing the sight where the Battle of Bannockburn took place.



P1/2

P1/2 enjoyed a visit to Leckie Farm at the end of March to support their learning around Farming. Thanks to Nelleke P5 and Ellen P6 for being leaders of the learning on this visit. P1/2 also invited Mrs Dun into school and asked her questions about farming, and the jobs that need done around the farm. From all this learning they developed their ICT skills through producing Powerpoint presentations on different types of farms.

This term a space rocket has appeared in the classroom to support their topic on Transport. Let's hope they have a blast!



Football

The children are really excited about football training restarting this term and we are trying to arrange a couple of friendlies against local schools. Thanks to Archie Peddie for his enthusiasm during training sessions and to Stuart Campbell for lining the pitch, the children really appreciate your support.

Gillian Orr, February 2022

Stamps for Hedgehogs

It has been estimated that the British hedgehog population has declined from around 30 million in the 1950s to less than 1.5 million today. The exact reasons for this decline are unknown.

It is believed that in the last 15 years alone, the hedgehog population has declined by between 25 and 40%. In 2020 the British hedgehog was officially classified as 'vulnerable to extinction.'

Fortunately, we appear to be bucking the trend in Gargunnock, with hedgehogs quite frequently visible, but what in general can and should we be doing to save these loveable creatures? By supporting organisations such as the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, research into its decline, of which not enough has been done, can be funded.



There are many ways of providing funding and the good people of Gargunnock, at no cost to themselves, can do their bit. Rather than throwing them away, simply tear off used postage stamps (leaving the backing paper on) and post them through my letterbox at Bridgend, Main Street. I can send them to the BHPS for them to sell on. Apparently, they can be worth as much as £5 per kilo, and thousands of pounds have already been raised for charitable purposes. If you include your contact details, email or mobile, I will acknowledge your contribution.



While the numbers of stamped letters is declining, every one collected will help the hedgehogs, and I look forward to an avalanche of stamps over the coming months!

Thanks in anticipation.

**Michael Kay, Bridgend
Main Street, Gargunnock
Stirling, FK8 3BW**

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Gargunnoch WI

Our March meeting of a planned afternoon visit to Kaleidoscope at Boquhan was cancelled due to the large number of people in the village having COVID and other illness. It is hoped we will have this visit at a later date.

Gargunnoch WI had another first with an online chat with Pauline Burnett from the Women Together magazine which was open to other Scottish Women's Institutes and around the world. We were asked to talk about how we have coped with lockdown and our interaction with the community. It was great to tell others about our grant from the windfarm which paid for the Zoom licence and our Easter project for 2021 and how we now have an annual event for decorating the trees round the village at Easter. The Advent windows at Christmas time was a great success in 2020 and a themed window in 2021 with villagers joining in with a Star in the window. The village has come out to support us with our summer cake/bake sale last year, which was the first real village event since lockdown where people could get together safely in the Rest Garden.

We were at last able to get back together face to face for our April meeting in the Community Centre when restrictions have eased. Member Elizabeth Brewer spoke about the power of music and the charity Playlist for Life which provides free resources and training to individuals and families affected by dementia and the community groups that support them. The charity was founded by news reader Sally Magnusson who found that her mother was much calmer when she joined in with singing. Our thanks go to Elizabeth who inspired us all to start our own playlist. We had 25 members join us for the evening.

Gargunnoch WI were the winners of the Stirling Clackmannan and West Perthshire federation for the Rural Olympics which was held in 2019. The winners go on to compete in the Scottish Rural Olympics but, due to COVID

it was postponed until this year and was held at Perth on Saturday 23rd April 2022

We were represented by Kimberley Hay, Natalie Kane, Seonaid Muirhead and myself Anne Christie (see picture on right). We took part in Puzzle, Skittles, Indoor Curling, Bean Bag, Putting, Basketball and dribbling with a fitness Ball and a Hockey stick round an obstacle course. Each event had to be done in 4 minutes and I'm pleased to say we won the Basketball with 110 baskets in 4 minutes.



If anyone would like further information on joining Gargunnoch WI we meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre at 7.30pm. We will be resuming in September following the summer recess. Please contact myself on 07977441108 or our Secretary Anne Muirhead on 860657 or email mrshamish@outlook.com

Stay safe, take care.

Anne Christie, President Gargunnoch SWI, May 2022

GARGUNNOCK WI EASTER TREES

Following the success of the Easter Project last year, Gargunnoch WI decided that the event should be continued this year.

As before, there are two parts to the event.

The first part is the decorating of the trees at the Village Square and the photographs show the ladies (and the two extra helpers!!) who carried out the work. The display welcomed people coming in to the Village and the comments and feedback have been very positive.

And secondly, all the WI ladies have decorated their windows and or tree or shrub in their front gardens to brighten up the Village and welcome the Spring. Everyone in the Village was encouraged to participate in this way and it is nice to see people walking round the village admiring the exhibits.



Above: Gargunnoch WI members Grace Smellie Beverley Mountford, Jessie Wyllie, Cathy Rowley, Anne Christie President, Sandra Anderson assisted by Grace's grand daughters Lucy and Emily. Right: Two Easter Trees.





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**See facebook for menu details.*

Windfarm Fund Update

The Windfarm Panel considered a number of applications at its March meeting. The following awards were agreed:

Applicant	Detail	Award
Village Shop Group	Plunkett Foundation Membership	£240
Village Shop Group	Funding for Business Consultant	£4,800
David Penman	Wildlife Pond in Glebe Park	£2,017.42
Beekeepers Group	Self Sufficiency and School Engagement	£2,432
Trust	Windfarm Administration for 2021-22	£1,008.95

The Panel had noted the detail from the recent survey on the future of the village shop, and in particular the very high level of support from the community to use windfarm funds to help explore how the community could secure a shop in the future. It was really encouraging to see such a structured response from the Community Council and Community Trust (both on the village shop working group) and the Panel were pleased to approve funds to enable the Business Case to be progressed. Thanks to everyone involved in taking this forward.

It's also been great to see the progress of the wildlife pond and the Beekeepers since their awards were made. Having secured the Panel awards both were able to attract 3rd party funding to contribute to their overall project costs – fabulous examples of how our local funds can be used to lever in other monies.

The Panel is made up of local volunteers who help determine the use of annual funds from FALK renewables. At its March meeting Jon Park and David Millar were both welcomed onto the panel, and it was agreed that the appointment of Alison Younger to the Chair would be extended for a further 2 years.

Our closing date for our June meeting was 23rd May and at time of going to print there were no applications submitted. There will be one more opportunity to apply for funds this year, deadline is 19th September.

Contact: windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org

Alison Younger, May 2022

Windfarm Fund Panel Vacancy



After serving for over 2 years, Fiona McCartney has decided to step down as a member of the Windfarm Fund Panel. The Windfarm Fund Panel and Gargunnock Community Trust would like to thank Fiona for her contribution to the work of the Panel during her time as a member; her input will be missed.

Following Fiona's departure there is a vacancy on the Panel. The commitment would not be for more than a couple of hours on 3 or 4 evenings over the year. If you're interested, or would like further details, please contact Alison Younger, Windfarm Panel Chair on 07825241196 or alisonyounger472@btinternet.com

The next issue of The Bugle will be published in early September 2022. If you have any pictures, articles, letters, puzzles, or adverts

that you would like to be included please submit them to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com by the 21st August 2022.



Down at the farm—update from Old Leckie

Despite the sun (occasionally) shining and the temperatures lifting, the clouds of increasing cost pressures are never far away. As with every other household and business it feels that almost everything is increasing with cost. We are grateful to have no oil or gas on the farm (our heating is generated by our bio mass boiler) and our switch to the electric van helps keep our delivery costs in check. Following on from a three fold increase in fertiliser prices however our hen feed costs have doubled and we've just been advised our butchery is now 50% more expensive than it was. Regrettably there is some number crunching to be done.

Early summer has however well and truly arrived at the farm and a walk around the farm gives a welcome distraction. Swallows and house martins flit past the

farm buildings at every turn. The martins somewhat perilously cling to the high windows of the old house in their search for a suitable window nook to begin their painstaking efforts to build a nest from mud. The grass has had good growth with the alternate rain and sunshine that we had in May. The cattle are out of their winter housing and slowly munching their way round the fields – the heart lifts to see them with the sun on their backs.

In the carse fields the grass we grow for winter feed is suddenly long enough to turn our minds to weather forecasts and opportunities to harvest our first cut of silage. As the grass bends and waves with the wind we are continually looking over the fields to spot tell tale signs of deer activity – indicating perhaps a hidden young one deep in the grass. We are

hopeful for success from a Curlew nest, a rarity these days, we will minimise risk to the nest by later cutting of this field and will try to get on top of the large number of predatory carrion crows.

Our April born lambs are growing well – often congregating in large groups to race up and down the fence lines. As we continue our daily stock checks the odd one or two come back to the farm for some extra care – their mothers unable to feed them sufficiently. We now have 8 pet lambs the girls are looking after. Regular milk bottle feeds mean that they are always delighted to see people and they are the highlight of our schedule of school visits.

Alison Younger, May 2022



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The Bugle

Is a free community Newsletter published four times a year by Gargunnoch Community Trust Ltd.

Its aim is to provide news, views, information, and entertainment for the residents and friends of Gargunnoch and the surrounding area.

Editor:

gargunnochbugle@gmail.com

Deadline of next issue

Articles, letter, photographs, adverts & submissions may be made anytime up to and including

21 August 2022.

We reserve the right to edit, shorten, or refuse to publish any article or letter submitted.

Contributions will be attributed to the author.

However, at the Editor's discretion, a contribution may be printed anonymously but the author's name, address, and phone number must be supplied to the Editor.



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The Bugle is distributed to around 350 homes in the village by volunteers (thank you) and is also available on the village website (www.gargunnoch.org).

If you would like to help with distribution, please contact the editor (gargunnochbugle@gmail.com).

Compliments or Complaints:

Contact the Trust at gargunnochtrust@gmail.com

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